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Area Wage Survey
Fort Smith, AR-OK
December 1988

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
January 1989

This summary presents results of a December 1988 survey of occupational wages in the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Crawford and Sebastian Counties, AR; and Sequoyah County, OK. This is 1 of over 100 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 67 establishments employing 23,078 workers was selected to represent 167 establishments employing 36,134 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Fort Smith, AR-OK, December 1988

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.50	12.50 – 13.00	13.00 – 13.50	13.50 – 14.00	14.00 and over
Secretaries	105	8.42	8.56	7.90– 8.89	–	–	–	–	3	3	2	3	10	12	19	29	7	5	7	2	1	–	–	1	1	–	–
Secretaries I	10	5.98	5.50	– –	–	–	–	–	3	3	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries II	32	8.31	8.22	7.92– 8.83	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	8	12	9	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries III	54	8.59	8.75	7.99– 9.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	4	5	20	7	3	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries IV	9	10.55	10.39	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	7	–
Key entry operators	37	8.56	7.36	6.72– 9.41	–	–	–	–	–	6	2	6	6	2	–	4	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
Key entry operators I	22	6.98	6.75	5.69– 7.24	–	–	–	–	–	6	2	5	5	–	–	1	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	7	–
Key entry operators II	15	10.88	10.50	7.70–13.80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–
Switchboard operators	9	5.80	5.71	– –	–	–	–	1	3	4	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	54	8.88	8.51	5.95– 9.42	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	3	5	4	7	9	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	10	–
Computer operators I	14	5.80	5.77	– –	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	31	10.12	8.78	8.00–13.80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	3	6	5	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–
Computer operators III	6	9.90	9.42	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters	21	9.80	9.58	9.17–10.18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	5	6	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters III	12	9.28	9.39	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	5	6	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	–
Drafters IV	6	12.16	13.03	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Electronics technicians	40	10.76	11.01	9.56–11.72	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	9	2	–	9	5	–	1	3	–	–
Electronics technicians II	38	10.72	10.73	9.55–11.78	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	9	2	–	9	3	–	7	–	–	–
Maintenance carpenters	7	11.19	12.22	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	3	–	–	–
Maintenance electricians	157	11.78	12.08	11.37–12.10	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	4	–	3	–	5	12	17	24	53	38	–	–	–
Maintenance machinists	13	11.18	11.00	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	3	4	2	–	–	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	477	11.57	11.98	11.37–12.08	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	3	5	2	3	11	38	33	61	96	112	79	18	–	–	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	69	10.99	11.58	9.90–12.29	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	8	–	1	5	12	2	–	16	4	15	–	–	–	2
General maintenance workers	32	6.27	6.35	5.81– 7.00	–	–	–	2	4	2	9	6	8	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tool and die makers	121	12.68	13.17	12.28–13.17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	18	3	13	12	75	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	9	9.81	11.00	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	194	10.28	8.05	8.00–15.46	–	–	6	–	9	1	4	–	10	5	77	1	6	–	–	2	10	–	–	2	–	–	61
Shipping packers	75	7.58	7.09	5.04–10.58	–	3	3	11	9	–	9	1	3	–	16	–	–	–	1	1	–	18	–	–	–	–	–
Material handling laborers	73	6.81	6.38	6.25– 7.93	4	–	–	7	2	1	25	–	–	16	17	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forklift operators	600	9.43	10.59	8.34–10.81	–	–	–	6	11	3	47	8	18	36	60	29	12	45	–	307	–	18	–	–	–	–	–
Guards	52	5.99	6.50	4.84– 7.25	–	–	3	10	10	1	1	12	12	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guards I	52	5.99	6.50	4.84– 7.25	–	–	3	10	10	1	1	12	12	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	149	7.12	6.66	4.65–10.29	–	23	7	9	8	5	17	8	–	18	8	3	–	1	23	13	6	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 57 at $15.00 to $15.50; and 4 at $15.50 to $16.00.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Fort Smith, AR-OK,[1] December 1988

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	167	67	36,134	100	23,078
Manufacturing	50	76	34	23,726	66	18,023
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	91	33	12,408	34	5,055

[1] The Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984, consists of Crawford and Sebastian Counties, AR; and Sequoyah County, OK. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used to classify establishments by industry division. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture, mining, construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

Area Wage Survey Summaries

The following areas are surveyed periodically under contract to the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for its use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. Reports on the surveys shown below are available at no cost from any of the Bureau's regional offices while supplies last.

Alaska (statewide)
Albany, GA
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY
Albuquerque, NM
Alexandria-Leesville, LA
Alpena-Standish-Tawas City, MI
Ann Arbor, MI
Asheville, NC
Atlantic City, NJ
Augusta, GA-SC
Austin, TX[1]
Bakersfield, CA
Baton Rouge, LA
Battle Creek, MI
Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles, TX-LA
Biloxi-Gulfport and Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS
Binghamton, NY
Birmingham, AL
Bloomington-Vincennes, IN
Bremerton-Shelton, WA
Brunswick, GA
Cedar Rapids, IA
Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul, IL[1]
Charleston, SC[1]
Chattanooga, TN-GA
Cheyenne, WY
Clarksville-Hopkinsville, TN-KY
Colorado Springs, CO
Columbia-Sumter, SC
Columbus, GA-AL
Columbus, MS
Connecticut (statewide)
Dayton-Springfield, OH
Daytona Beach, FL
Decatur, IL[1]
Des Moines, IA
Dothan, AL
Duluth, MN-WI
El Paso-Las Cruces-Alamogordo, TX-NM
Eugene-Springfield-Medford-Roseburg-Klamath Falls-Grants Pass, OR
Fayetteville, NC
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach, FL
Fort Smith, AR-OK
Fort Wayne, IN
Gadsden and Anniston, AL
Goldsboro, NC
Grand Island-Hastings, NE
Green Bay, WI[2]
Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC[2]
Greenville-Spartanburg, SC
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, PA
Jacksonville, FL
Knoxville, TN
LaCrosse-Sparta, WI
Laredo, TX
Las Vegas-Tonopah, NV
Lexington-Fayette, KY
Lima, OH
Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR
Logansport-Peru, IN
Lorain-Elyria, OH
Lower Eastern Shore, MD-VA-DE
Macon, GA
Madison, WI
Maine (statewide)
Manhattan-Junction City, KS
Mansfield, OH
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission and Brownsville-Harlingen, TX
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, FL
Meridian, MS
Montana (statewide)
Montgomery, AL
Nashville, TN
New Bern-Jacksonville, NC
New Hampshire (statewide)
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA
North Dakota (statewide)
Northern New York
Northwest Texas
Northwestern Florida
Oklahoma City, OK
Orlando, FL[1]
Oxnard-Ventura, CA
Peoria, IL
Pine Bluff, AR
Portsmouth-Chillicothe-Gallipolis, OH
Poughkeepsie-Orange County-Kingston, NY
Providence, RI
Pueblo, CO
Puerto Rico
Raleigh-Durham, NC
Reno, NV
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA[1]
Salina, KS
Salinas-Seaside-Monterey, CA
Sandusky, OH
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, CA
Savannah, GA
Selma, AL
Sherman-Denison, TX
Southeastern Massachusetts
South Dakota (statewide)
Southwest Virginia
Spokane, WA
Springfield, IL
Stockton, CA
Tacoma, WA
Topeka, KS
Tucson-Douglas, AZ
Tulsa, OK
Upper Peninsula, MI
Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa, CA
Vermont (statewide)
Virgin Islands of the U.S.
Waco and Killeen-Temple, TX
Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA
West Virginia (statewide)
Western Massachusetts
Wichita, KS
Wichita Falls-Lawton-Altus, TX-OK
Yakima-Richland-Kennewick-Pasco-Walla Walla-Pendleton, WA-OR

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[1] In 1988, this area is scheduled to be surveyed under the Bureau's regular area wage survey program.

[2] Scheduled to be surveyed in this program for the first time in 1988. In 1986, the area was surveyed under the Bureau's regular area wage survey program.